

Year 5 Knowledge Organiser

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

BIG question – How did the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings impact British history?

Key Vocabulary and Definitions

Saxon Vocabulary

- ❖ Redwald – The Anglo-Saxon King of East Anglia.
- ❖ Invade – To enter and occupy land.
- ❖ Kingdom – An area ruled by a King.
- ❖ Saxon: A member of a group of early Germanic peoples who settled in England.
- ❖ Anglo-Saxon: Referring to the period in British history from the 5th century to the Norman Conquest in 1066.
- ❖ Settlement: A community of people living in a new area.
- ❖ Chieftain: A leader of a group or tribe.
- ❖ Warrior: A person who fights in battles, often for a leader or tribe.
- ❖ Pagan: A person who follows a polytheistic or nature-based religion, common before Christianity.

Viking Vocabulary

- ❖ Viking: Norse explorers and warriors who raided and settled in various parts of Europe.
- ❖ Danelaw: A historical term referring to the area of England under Viking control.
- ❖ Longship – A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.
- ❖ Longhouses – Long, narrow houses lived in by the Vikings.
- ❖ Viking - Norse explorers, warriors, merchants, and pirates from Scandinavia.
- ❖ Raid - A sudden attack on a place, often to steal goods.
- ❖ Settlements - Communities established by Vikings in new lands.
- ❖ Fjord - A narrow inlet of the sea between cliffs or steep slopes, often found in Norway.
- ❖ Runes - Characters from the runic alphabet used by the Vikings for writing.
- ❖ Thor - Norse god of thunder, one of the most famous figures in Viking mythology.
- ❖ Valhalla - The hall of the slain, where warriors went after death in battle.
- ❖ Berserker - A fierce warrior who fought with intense fury.

Important facts

- The Saxons were a group of people who came from what is now Germany and Denmark. They started to settle in Britain around the 5th century AD after the Romans left.
- After the Romans left Britain, the Saxons settled in various parts of the country, especially in the south and east.
- The Saxons formed several kingdoms, including Wessex, Mercia, and Northumbria. Each kingdom had its own king and rules.
- The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
- They travelled in boats called longships.
- They first arrived in Britain around AD 787.
- The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade.
- They were always looking for expensive goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.



Golden Words: Invasion and Settlement